

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE TORRANCE TRAFFIC COMMISSION**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance Traffic Commission convened in a regular meeting at 6:59 p.m. on Monday, August 6, 2012 in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

2. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Commissioner Siani led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Furey, Herring, Sargent, Siani,
Tsao, Walter, and Chairperson Rudolph.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Engineering Manager Semaan, Transit Director Turner, Project Manager Sedadi, and Torrance Police Sergeant Kozak.

4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Sargent moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting. Commissioner Siani seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5a. MINUTES OF JUNE 4, 2012

MOTION: Commissioner Walter moved for the approval of the June 4, 2012 Commission meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner Sargent seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1

Chairperson Rudolph explained the policies and procedures of the Traffic Commission, including the right to appeal decisions to City Council.

Teresa Browning, Gramercy Avenue, presented tokens of appreciation on behalf of her neighborhood for the berm that was installed on Sepulveda Boulevard at Gramercy Avenue on August 1. She noted the immediate improvement in noise level, pollution, traffic volume, and pedestrian safety and received clarification that the crosswalk and "Keep Clear" zone would be painted later this week.

Bob Habel, West 181 Street, expressed concern about placement of stop signs at Cota Avenue between Carson Street and Torrance Boulevard. He stated that it is currently a two-way stop sign and that it is dangerous to continue forward or to turn after

stopping due to poor visibility. He requested that staff consider installing a four-way stop to include Sonoma Street to the west and Engracia Avenue to the east.

7. ITEMS UNDER CONSIDERATION

7a. UPDATE FROM METRO STAFF ON METRO EXPRESSLANES PROJECT

Engineering Manager Semaan introduced the item and welcomed representatives from Metropolitan Transportation Authority, Los Angeles County, as well as Transit Director Turner.

Commissioner Siani, on advise from the City Attorney's Office, recused herself from the room during this item.

Kathleen McCune, Transportation Planning Manager of New Business Development, provided an overview of the Metro ExpressLanes Project in a short video. With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation she provided background on the U.S. Department of Transportation grant to convert existing High Occupancy Vehicle Lanes to High Occupancy Toll lanes on I-10 and I-110. She stated that the one-year demonstration program would convert 25 miles of existing carpool lanes to Metro ExpressLanes to provide commuters with new and better travel options along two of the County's most congested corridors. She described the incorporation of FasTrak, toll rates, how to open and replenish a FasTrak account, how to receive a transponder, comparison with other express lanes, photo and CHP enforcement, and customer benefits that includes the ability for eligible carpools, vanpools, and motorcycles to travel toll-free.

She discussed the transit component of the grant that includes four new buses, increased bus transit frequency, enhanced park and ride lots, station improvements, transit signal priority, and bike stations. She noted that since the addition of the new buses ridership on I-110 has increased 26%. She further described bottleneck improvements, an equity plan for low-income residents, and marketing and outreach campaigns. She stated that the I-110 Metro ExpressLanes will open this fall and the I-10 ExpressLanes will open early next year. She added that the grant requires Metro to collect data and submit a report to the State Legislature to determine if the program is successful and that the item would be presented to City Council on August 21.

In response to Commissioner Sargent's inquires, Ms. McCune stated that the transponder battery life is five years, that the nearest customer service center is on 190th Street near Figueroa Street, and that Auto Club will be have transponders available beginning August 21.

Transit Director Turner stated that she is pleased that Torrance Transit is part of the Metro program and that staff is in the process of making scheduling changes to provide four buses in the morning and four in the evening on I-110. She noted that staff is currently in the public hearing process and, once completed on August 9, they will finalize their plan and launch a public awareness campaign.

Chairperson Rudolph expressed interest in receiving feedback about the success of the program and public awareness.

Responding to Chairperson Rudolph's inquiries, Ms. McCune stated that the transponders allow access to all FasTrak lanes in California, that they expect to

distribute 250,000 transponders the first year, and that individual accounts can be accessed on-line.

She advised Commissioner Walter that there is no senior discount and that motorcycles are required to have a transponder even though they are exempt from fees.

Chairperson Rudolph expressed his interest in having transponders more available in the field and Ms. McCune discussed efforts to make them accessible in grocery store and pharmacy chains as well as providing a mobile van at community events.

Bob Habel inquired about toll free requirements and Ms. McCune explained that I-10 has a 3+ occupancy requirement during peak hours but that I-110 is 2+ passengers.

Commissioner Siani returned to the West Annex meeting room.

7b. DESIGNATE NEWLY EXTENDED ROADWAY SEGMENT ALONG DEL AMO BOULEVARD BETWEEN MAPLE AVENUE AND CRENSHAW BOULEVARD AS TRUCK ROUTE AND ELIMINATE THE CURRENT TRUCK ROUTE DESIGNATION ALONG MAPLE AVENUE BETWEEN DEL AMO BOULEVARD AND MARICOPA

Engineering Manager Semaan provided background on the Del Amo Boulevard roadway extension project that is designed to accommodate truck traffic and will open on August 22. He stated that truck traffic coming southbound on Crenshaw Boulevard would be able to utilize the newly extended segment to access or exit the industrial area east of Maple Avenue. He requested that the Commission concur with staff recommendation to classify the newly extended segment of Del Amo Boulevard as a truck route and to eliminate the current truck route designation along Maple Avenue south of Del Amo Boulevard. He noted that the proposed truck route map was included in Attachment A and that the Commission's recommendation would be considered by City Council on August 21.

Chairperson Rudolph received clarification that no extra costs are associated with the change and that they would need to modify a section of the City Code.

Responding to Commissioner Sargent's inquiry, Engineering Manager Semaan explained that the primary advantage of the change is to give truck drivers a continuous path and close the loop.

MOTION: Commissioner Walter moved to accept the recommendation as proposed by staff. Commissioner Sargent seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

7C. UPDATE ON THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION WORK PLAN – SIXTH PRIORITY – SEPULVEDA CORRIDOR TRAFFIC ANALYSIS

Project Manager Sedadi provided background on the second and sixth Traffic Commission Work Plan priorities and recent Request for Proposals for the design of Protected Permissive Left-Turn (PPLT) signals for the following locations: Sepulveda Boulevard and Hickory Avenue; Sepulveda Boulevard and Arlington Avenue; Sepulveda Boulevard and Cabrillo Avenue; and Prairie Avenue and 182nd Street. She noted that

the consultant would also provide education to the public regarding PPLT and that staff anticipates going to City Council for the award of contract in October 2012. She stated that City Council has appropriated funding of \$130,000 per year through the CIP for "Traffic Signal Left Turn Phasing Upgrades" over a five-year period beginning FY 2012-13.

Commissioner Sargent inquired about a joint meeting with City Council and Engineering Manager Semaan advised that City Council is aware of the Commission's direction and suggested meeting with them in January or February 2013 once the project is in motion.

In response to Chairperson Rudolph's inquiry, Engineering Manager Semaan added that, because of the education element, staff focused on one corridor for PPLT, with Sepulveda Boulevard as the priority, and identified three primary intersections that are expected to be viable.

Responding to Commissioner Siani's inquiry, he advised that \$130,000 would cover one intersection; however, if minimal equipment change is required, they may be able to construct all three with two years of funding. He stated that they want to construct all three simultaneously even if it has to be delayed due to funding.

A brief discussion centered on the education component and the best ways to reach the public at large.

8. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2

- 8a.** The Commission welcomed Torrance Police Sergeant Kozak.
- 8b.** Commissioners and staff welcomed new Commissioners Furey and Herring.
- 8c.** Chairperson Rudolph expressed interest in learning about the Torrance radio station and if old Pacific Railroad tracks are buried under the road.

9. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 8:45 p.m., Commissioner Siani moved to adjourn the meeting to October 1, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room, Torrance City Hall. Commissioner Sargent seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Chairperson Rudolph so ordered.

Approved as Submitted October 1, 2012 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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